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SUBJECT: LIBERIA: DUTCH WILL CONTRIBUTE EURO 500,000 FOR
MALI VIA ECOWAS

REF: SECSTATE 219151

Classified By: A/PolCouns Kami A. Witmer Reasons 1.5 (a), (b) and (d)

1. (S) Summary: The GoNL plans to contribute euro 500,000 via ECOWAS to Mali to support Mali's military contribution to an ECOWAS force in Liberia. Such financial support will be dependent upon a "believable arrangement" that Taylor will leave country and will not be absolved of his war crimes indictment from the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The Dutch are also prepared to donate euro 500,000 for humanitarian assistance via UN and/or established humanitarian organizations once stability is reached. Dutch military support is unlikely. End Summary.

2. (S) PolOff and DATT delivered reftel to MFA Marc Bentinck, MFA Division head for Conflict Prevention, Peace Operations, and Military and Civil Cooperation, and R. van der Veen, Deputy Director for West Africa. Bentinck stated the Government of Mali recently approached the GoNL, asking for financial support of Mali's military contribution to an ECOWAS mission. The GoNL is prepared to donate euro 500,000 to fulfill this request. However, the Dutch insist that the contribution go through ECOWAS. To date, the GoNL has not/not received a formal request from ECOWAS. Upon receipt of such request, the Dutch could provide funding within a matter of days. Van der Veen said that the GoNL will attach two conditions to its contribution. Taylor must leave, or there must be a "believable arrangement" that he will depart country. Secondly, his departure cannot include any arrangement that would negate his indictment for war crimes under the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

3. (S) Due to participation in other overseas military operations and defense budget cuts, Bentinck does not anticipate a GoNL military contribution to an international coalition of peacekeeping forces in Liberia at this time. (Note: Post concurs with this assessment; military support from the Dutch is unlikely.) He will, nevertheless, discuss options within the GoNL. Bentinck was open to the DATT's suggestion to at least consider providing airlift support on an ad-hoc basis in the future.

4. (S) The Dutch have set aside euro 500,000 for humanitarian assistance for Liberia. It is prepared to contribute such funds via UN or other established humanitarian agencies once the situation on the ground is stable. Van der Veen commented that additional financial assistance might be possible in the future.
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